NEWS RELEASE

Hon. Robert T. Matsui Member of Congress

www.house.gov/matsui/

Robert J. Yatacie
Serving California's 5th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, June 21, 2002

CONTACT: CODY HARRIS (202) 225-7163/(202) 225-0564

SACRAMENTO AIRPORT OPENS INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL

Mexicana Airlines to provide non-stop service from Sacramento to Mexico

SACRAMENTO, CA—Capping more than two years of hard work, Sacramento International Airport held the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony today of its new International Terminal. The airport is officially ready to begin providing non-stop service to Mexico on Mexicana Airlines. Demand for international service to and from Sacramento has long been on the rise, and it is expected that the Mexicana partnership will lead to additional international destinations. The new international service will complement an already burgeoning regional airport. Passenger traffic has grown steadily over the past several years and now exceeds 8 million annually.

\$3.2 million has been invested to remodel the existing airport building to house the staff for the three federal agencies necessary to process international passengers: The Immigration and Naturalization Service, The Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Customs Service. Representative Matsui was pleased to have played a role in securing the necessary federal support and coordination.

"This is a genuine milestone for Sacramento and the surrounding region. Residents will no longer have to spend hours driving to the Bay Area for service to one of the most popular tourist destinations for Californians," said Matsui. "This new service will give Sacramentans the opportunity to showcase our city to international travelers. I congratulate Sacramento International Airport on this hard-won and historic achievement."

###